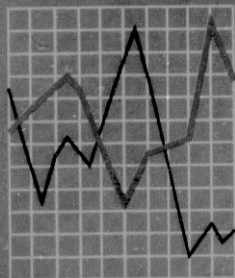


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 14 October 1993



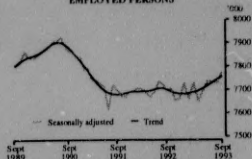
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EMPLOYED PERSONS



Trend is rising for both employment and unemployment

Provisional trend estimates of employment have been increasing since February 1993 despite small falls in the full-time trend in the four months to September. Trend estimates of unemployment also continue to increase. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate now stands at 10.9 per cent while the trend participation rate was unchanged at 62.6 per cent in September.

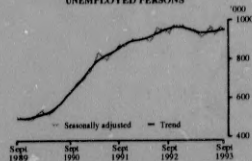
Employment

The September 1993 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7 774 700, an increase of 45 100 since August, including an increase of 37 200 in the number of persons employed part time. Full-time employment rose slightly to 5 916 800. For males, employment increased by 27 100 to 4 487 900 with increases of 13 600 in full-time employment and 13 500 in part-time employment. Female employment increased by 18 000 to 3 286 800, with an increase of 23 700 in part-time employment outweighing a small fall in full-time employment.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in September fell by 16 300 to 947 200, mainly due to a fall of 12 800 in the number of unemployed persons seeking part-time work. Male unemployment fell by 15 100 to 570 300 with a decrease of 10 900 in full-time unemployment. For females, unemployment was relatively flat at 376 900, with a fall of 8 600 in the number of females seeking part-time work and a similar increase in females seeking full-time work.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES, 1993
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unem- ployment rate — per cent —	Partici- pation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1993						
April	5 904.5	1 747.5	7 652.0	914.2	10.7	61.9
May	5 915.1	1 781.8	7 696.9	924.8	10.7	62.2
June	5 955.2	1 780.8	7 736.0	966.4	11.1	62.8
July	5 917.8	1 817.3	7 735.1	924.3	10.7	62.4
August	5 908.9	1 820.7	7 729.6	963.5	11.1	62.6
September	5 916.8	1 857.9	7 774.7	947.2	10.9	62.7

Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.9 per cent in September, a fall of 0.2 percentage points since August. For males, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 11.3 per cent and for females, the rate decreased slightly to 10.3 per cent.

Participation rate

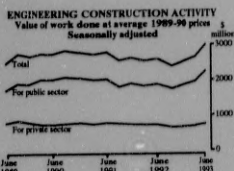
The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 62.7 per cent, a slight increase over August. For males, the participation rate rose slightly to 73.8 per cent, and for females, the participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points and now stands at 52.0 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

Engineering construction activity at highest level on record

June quarter 1993 estimates show that engineering construction activity has risen for the third consecutive quarter, reaching its highest level since the inception of the engineering construction survey in September 1986.

Expressed at average 1989-90 prices, the seasonally adjusted estimate of the value of engineering construction work done during the June quarter was 12.8 per cent higher than in the March quarter and 15.6 per cent above the June quarter 1992.

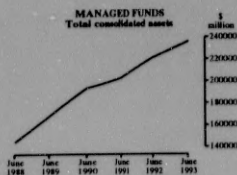


VALUE OF WORK DONE, JUNE QUARTER 1993
Seasonally adjusted at 1989-90 prices

	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
For private sector	745.0	7.5	3.9
For public sector	2 248.7	14.6	20.0
Total	2 993.7	12.8	15.6

The value of work done for the public sector (which accounts for approximately two-thirds of total engineering construction) rose by 14.6 per cent and comprised a 15.1 per cent increase in work undertaken by its own workforce and a 13.8 per cent increase in work contracted to the private sector. Almost 40 per cent of this activity was on roads, highways and subdivision construction. The value of work done for the private sector rose by 7.5 per cent.

In 1992-93 the value of engineering construction work done rose by 2.7 per cent over 1991-92 but remained 4.7 per cent lower than work done in 1990-91. A 6.2 per cent increase in work done for the public sector was partially offset by a 6.0 per cent fall in work done for the private sector.



Steady rise in managed funds

Assets of Managed Funds grew by 3.0 per cent during the June quarter 1993 to reach \$236 193 million by the quarter's end, continuing the upward trend evident since September 1992.

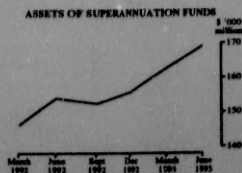
The quarterly increase is mainly attributable to rises in the value of overseas assets, up \$3 688 million (11.9%), short-term securities, up \$2 662 million (10.5%) and units in trusts, up \$1 821 million (3.1%). These rises were partly offset by a decline in the value of long-term securities and land and buildings which fell by \$1 252 million (2.4%) and \$945 million (3.4%) respectively.

Caution should be used when interpreting asset movements as changes can be significantly influenced by movements in interest rates, adjustments in share prices and currency fluctuations.

ASSETS, JUNE QUARTER 1993

Type of asset	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Cash and deposits	11 838	4.4	-16.5
Loans and placements	14 779	-0.2	1.1
Short-term securities	27 982	10.5	3.8
Long-term securities	51 317	-2.4	11.6
Equities and units in trusts	59 769	3.1	6.6
Land and buildings	26 892	-3.4	-10.4
Overseas assets	34 757	11.9	35.5
Other assets	8 859	5.4	12.4
Total assets	236 193	3.0	6.7

For further information, order the publication *Managed Funds, Australia* (5655.0), or contact Len Fulford on (06) 252 7109.



Growth in super continues

The value of the assets of superannuation funds and approved deposit funds (ADFs) increased 4.0 per cent to \$169 170 million during the June quarter 1993. The growth in the value of assets for the year to June was 9.8 per cent.

The growth for 1992-93 was down on the 1991-92 growth of 14.5 per cent but comparable with the 1990-91 growth of 8.7 per cent.

Statutory funds of life insurance offices accounted for 43.9 per cent of total assets of all superannuation funds and ADFs. Assets held outside the statutory funds of life insurance offices and invested through fund managers represented 35.9 per cent and assets invested directly by superannuation funds and ADFs, 20.2 per cent.

Continued ...

At the end of June 1993 superannuation fund and ADF assets were predominantly equities and units in trusts (32.1%), long-term securities (23.3%) and assets overseas (15.2%). The major change in the asset composition of superannuation funds and ADFs over the last three years occurred in the value of land and buildings. In June 1990 land and buildings accounted for 15.2 per cent of total assets compared with 8.0 per cent at June 1993.

ASSETS, JUNE QUARTER 1993

Manner of investment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Held in life statutory funds	74 292	2.9	8.9
Held outside life statutory funds	94 878	4.9	10.5
Of which			
Invested directly	34 165	4.1	6.5
Invested through fund managers	60 713	5.4	12.9
Total assets	169 170	4.0	9.8

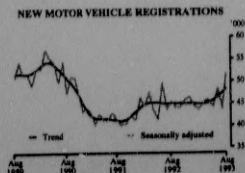
For further information, order the publication *Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds* (5656.0), or contact Len Fulford on (06) 252 7109.

Growth continues in new motor vehicle registrations

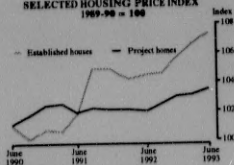
The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations is showing evidence of steady growth, with monthly rises exceeding 1 per cent in each of the four months to August 1993.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new vehicle registrations rose by 18.4 per cent in August over July 1993, based on an increase of 15.4 per cent in unadjusted registrations. In part, this increase may be attributed to a number of special factors including speculation about the impact of the 1993 Federal Budget, introduction of new models and currency fluctuations.

In unadjusted terms, passenger vehicle registrations showed a strong recovery, rising by 19.6 per cent from 37 719 vehicles in July to 45 126 in August. Rises were recorded in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory where passenger vehicle registrations fell by 23.6 per cent, to 295 vehicles. Tasmania recorded the largest rise of 31.8 per cent, to 1 089 vehicles.



SELECTED HOUSING PRICE INDEX
1989-90 = 100



Established house prices flat

The price index of established houses in Australia rose 0.7 per cent between the March quarter 1993 and the June quarter 1993. Falls in Canberra (2.2%) and Sydney (0.3%) partially offset rises in other capital cities (ranging from 0.2% in Perth to 8.5% in Darwin).

In the year to the June quarter 1993, the index rose 2.7 per cent with rises recorded in all cities (ranging from 0.5% in Sydney to 20.5% in Darwin).

Project home prices for Australia increased 0.4 per cent between the March quarter 1993 and the June quarter 1993. Movements ranged from -0.2 per cent in Melbourne to 1.1 per cent in Hobart.

HOUSING PRICES, JUNE QUARTER 1993
Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	-0.3	0.5	0.7	1.3
Melbourne	1.2	3.0	-0.2	-0.5
Brisbane	0.6	3.5	0.4	3.6
Adelaide	5.5	8.7	1.0	1.3
Perth	0.2	4.4	0.8	2.9
Hobart	0.7	6.5	1.1	4.0
Darwin	8.5	20.5	0.2	2.8
Canberra	-2.2	4.4	0.2	3.7
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.7	2.7	0.4	1.5

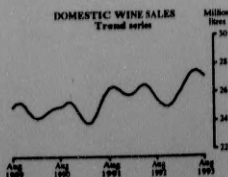
For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Cheryl Porter on (06) 252 5754.

Mixed messages on domestic wine sales but wine exports booming

Higher than usual domestic wine sales have been recorded for August 1993. Winemakers reported that wine sales in August were influenced by proposals to increase the sales tax on wine as part of the 1993 Federal Budget. After seasonal adjustment, domestic sales rose by 24.7 per cent between July and August 1993.

However, respondents also reported that they expect sales in September to be significantly lower than those reported for August. The provisional trend estimates provided in the adjacent graph incorporate that preliminary information about September.

DOMESTIC WINE SALES
Trend series



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
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Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
14 October 1993

They show a decline over the two months to August 1993 following a period of strong growth in the first half of 1993.

Using original data, domestic sales for August 1993 were 31.2 million litres, an increase of 6.5 per cent on July 1993 and up by 27.5 per cent on sales in August 1992.

Exports of Australian wine continue to rise. Exports for the 1992-93 financial year exceeded the one hundred million litre mark (102.7 million litres worth \$292.5 million) for the first time. This was an increase of 30.5 per cent in volume and 20.1 per cent in value of exports when compared with 1991-92.

In July 1993, Australia exported 13.7 million litres of wine worth \$37.6 million, the largest volume of wine exported in one month on record. In terms of volume, exports were 68.9 per cent higher than July 1992 and 18.5 per cent higher than for June 1993. The value of wine exports in July 1993 was 54.1 per cent higher than that recorded in July 1992.

For further information, order the publication *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy* by Winemakers (8504.0), or contact Peter Carmalt on (08) 237 7626.

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 October

- 15 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, August 1993 (6407.0; \$10.70)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1993 (6408.0; \$8.20)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, August 1993 (6412.0; \$10.70)
- 18 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, August 1993 (5609.0; \$10.70)
Export Price Index, Australia, August 1993 (6405.0; \$8.20)
- 20 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, September 1993, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.70)
- 21 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1993 (6411.0; \$10.70)
Import Price Index, Australia, August 1993 (6414.0; \$8.20)
- 26 Manufacturing Production, Australia, September 1993, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.70)

Selected releases: 6 to 12 October

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, August 1993 (7204.3; \$5.10)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Building Approvals, NSW, August 1993 (8731.1; \$10.70)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, July 1993 (8741.1; \$10.70)
Building Activity, NSW, June Qtr 1993 (8752.1; \$10.70)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, August 1993 (8741.4; \$10.70)
Building Activity, WA, June Qtr 1993 (8752.5; \$10.70)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, July 1993 (8741.4; \$10.70)
Tourist Accommodation, Tas., June Qtr 1993 (8635.6; \$20.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., August 1993 (8731.6; \$10.70)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	95 250	1.2	3.3
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	August 93	\$m	-1 689	-1 397	-29	-18
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-426	-153	—	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-727	-379	—	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 162	5 187	-4	10
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5 588	-5 340	2	17
Net foreign debt	30 June 93	\$m	172 325	n.a.	7.5	12.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	222 984	n.a.	7.2	12.2
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	August 93	\$m	7 660	8 155	-0.2	3.2
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	no.	6 034	5 788	-2.8	1.8
New motor vehicle registrations	August 93	no.	52 451	51 752	15.4	17.7
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	\$m	34 296	34 540	0.9	1.2
Dwelling unit approvals	August 93	no.	15 231	14 556	-4.2	7.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 277	2 248	7.2	23.8
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	"	5 748	6 207	0.8	6.9
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	109.3	n.a.	0.4	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	July 93	1988-89 = 100.0	115.5	n.a.	0.2	2.0
Materials used in manufacturing industries	July 93	1984-85 = 100.0	127.2	n.a.	0.0	0.8
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	September 93	'000	7 843.9	7 755.0	3.4	1.1
Participation rate †	"	%	63.2	62.7	1.9	0.0
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.7	10.9	0.0	0.0
Job vacancies	August qtr 93	'000	39.0	37.3	18.0	38.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.15	1.19	-0.5	8.3
Estimated resident population	Dec. qtr 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	July 93	'000	247	244	-1.6	11.7
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 93	\$m	3 978	4 435	-1.8	33.6
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May qtr 93	\$	597.80	n.a.	0.7	1.8
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	August 93	% per annum	4.75	n.a.	-0.20	-1.15
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	6.65	n.a.	-0.25	-2.30
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	"	per \$A	0.6785	n.a.	—	—

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Mar. qtr 93	6.6	2.7	-14.0	2.2	31.5	1.0	n.a.	n.a.	3.2
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	August 93	-1.8	5.5	2.5	4.2	11.3	-0.7	n.a.	6.0	2.9
New motor vehicle registrations†	August 93	14.2	4.9	17.9	9.6	21.7	34.3	-1.9	54.0	13.9
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	August 93	1.7	-0.2	8.1	18.9	21.6	6.0	92.0	-3.4	7.7
Value of total building work done	Mar. qtr 93	3.2	2.0	16.0	0.8	35.9	-0.5	-10.8	-6.2	7.5
Employed persons*	September 93	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.4	4.8	0.4	0.1	3.4	1.1
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 93	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.5	4.2
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May qtr 93	0.1	2.2	5.0	1.7	-0.1	2.0	0.5	1.0	1.5
Population	Dec. qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 93	4.6	3.6	12.2	-0.6	8.3	6.0	13.3	-7.1	6.4

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.
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